NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
June 6, 1997

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS MONITOR NATURAL AREAS IN CHICAGO'S WILDERNESS WITH HELP FROM FIELD MUSEUM

The Office of Environmental and Conservation Programs (ECP) is working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and other Chicago Wilderness institutions to implement EcoWatch in Chicago Wilderness. EcoWatch is a statewide network of programs that involve "citizen scientists" (trained volunteers, including teachers and students) in monitoring the trends of natural environments in the State. EcoWatches focus on species that are good indicators of a habitat's condition, and that can be detected and recognized reliably. The five EcoWatch programs -- all in different stages of completion - are: RiverWatch, ForestWatch, PrairieWatch, WetlandWatch and UrbanWatch. The programs link professional scientists, trained volunteers, and the State's effort to gather long-term ecological data on its natural areas. The results are compiled by the State, in the Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP), published every two years.

ECP's primary involvement in the River, Forest, Prairie and Wetland Watch is to link this statewide effort with the regionwide effort to monitor the condition of the natural areas in Chicago Wilderness. Program Manager **Cathy Geraghty** (ECP) has been leading discussions with members of Chicago Wilderness Science and Land Management Teams to review and revise the Watch protocols with the State. Meanwhile, Cathy is coordinating efforts by Field Museum scientists - Assistant Curator Tom Lammers and Associate Curator and Chair **Greg Mueller** (Botany), Director **Debby Moskovits** and Conservation Ecologist **Doug Stotz** (ECP), and Adjunct Curator **Margaret Thayer** (Zoology, Insects) -- to develop the new UrbanWatch protocols that will focus specifically on monitoring biological diversity in urban centers. UrbanWatch will be piloted in 1998.

Chris Molzahn (ECP), is recruiting high school science teachers and adult volunteers from the Chicago Wilderness area. In 1997, Chris is coordinating volunteer training in ForestWatch and RiverWatch. In 1998, she will be coordinating training in WetlandWatch and PrairieWatch. Training is conducted by IDNR EcoWatch Educators.

To become a volunteer, or for more information on EcoWatch, contact Chris at ext. 598. If you'd like to take part in UrbanWatch development please call Cathy at ext. 432.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is soliciting proposals for studying the interactions between key population variables and environmental factors through its Initiative on Population, Consumption and the Environment. Research should address interactions between migration and fertility changes and the utilization and conservation of coastal resources (e.g. coastal forests, mangroves, coastal marine ecosystems, etc.) by human populations. Four research questions are of particular interest: 1) What are some specific socio-cultural and institutional factors that mediate the relationship between population and the environment? 2) What adjustment mechanisms do people use in response to a changing environment? 3) What are some key economic factors that motivate migration, fertility changes and resource use? 4) What factors contribute to situations where population changes coincide with positive environmental change? Collaborative research between southern and northern institutions will be given priority. The proposal submission deadline is August 1, 1997. Contact **Sophie Twichell** (x877) for more information.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

BALLARD OFF TO TRINATIONAL WORKSHOP

Assistant Curator **Bill Ballard** (Zoology, Insects) was invited by the selection committee of the U.S./Germany/Japan Trinational Workshop on Molecular Evolution to attend a meeting in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria. The meeting took place June 1 - 4 and is being followed by a workshop in Munich, June 5 - 8. Ballard's research focuses on mitochondrial DNA and he uses Drosophila as a model system. He has been asked to give an oral presentation of his research as well as to submit a manuscript.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday June 3, 1997 was delivered by Sloan Williams, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois Chicago Circle. She described her research to test models of genealogical relationship resulting from given described social structure against actual observed genetic patterns. Drawing upon extensive ethnographic data for the Yanomama peoples of in the Amazonian Basin near the border of Brazil and Venezuela, Sloan focused on five villages of the Shamatari subgroup. These five populations derive from an initial founding event about 1900, followed by subdivisions in 1940, 1960 and 1968. In these patrilineal societies, women may change their village of residence. Sloan sampled genomic variability using both maternally inherited mitochondrial and independently inherited nuclear molecular data to assay for differences within and between villages as well as by sex. Although variability in the nuclear DNA matched the known historical record of formation of these five populations, variability in the mitochondrial DNA differed. Sloan outlined several future studies to identify the possible source(s) of these differences.

The Noon Balloon seminar series will be suspended 10 June through August. The series will resume in September.

NUTS & BOLTS

Editor's Note: A number of good suggestions have come into the *Natural News* over the last several weeks. One suggestion was that we have an insert on yellow paper that would give information on changes in procedures, policies, etc., to be titled "Nuts & Bolts." This will enable the "skimmer" to go quickly to time-valued announcements. We will test this out over the next several months to see how it works.

PARKING UPDATE -- from Ron Cundiff

- **Parking Decal Reminder**

  All staff should have a Field Museum parking decal, whether parking in the Soldier Field Lot or the West Lot. Having a decal makes it much easier to identify Field Museum staff in case of problems such as lights left on, etc. Contact the Security Equipment Office to obtain one.

- **South door Open At 6:00 A.M.**

  With the relocation of staff parking to the Soldier Field Lot, the south door is now open at 6:00 a.m., Monday through Friday. Weekend opening will remain at 9:00 a.m., since parking is available in the west lot on weekends.

- **West Lot Parking Requests**

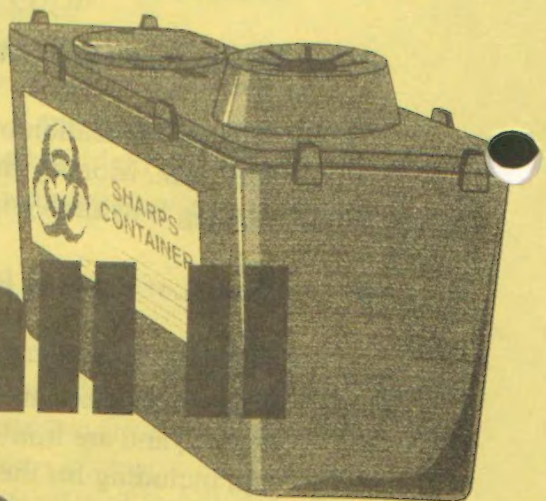
  Please remember - Parking is no longer available for events, meetings etc. in the west lot. Reserved spaces are available only for the President's Office, Development and Special events, and are limited to two spaces each. Space will be provided for delivery and pick-up, including for the Harris Extension.

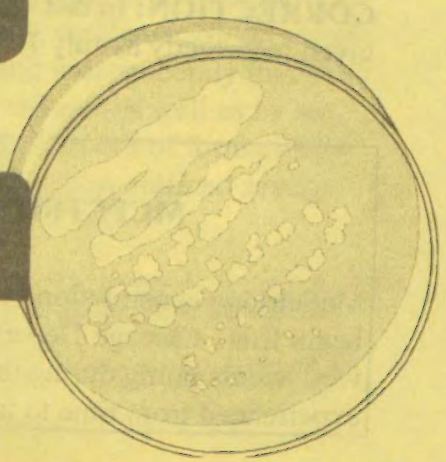
CORRECTION: In last week's issue, the date for International Soccer at Soldier Field was given incorrectly as July 7. The correct date is July 6 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

MCFETRIDGE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS MONDAY, JUNE 9

McFetridge construction begins in earnest next Monday, June 9. Work on the south side will begin first. Chicago Department of Transportation has pledged to us that they will keep the east-west access going during the time of construction. However, changes in traffic patterns may be experienced from time to time. -- **Jim Croft**

Bloodborne Pathogens





Lecture Hall II

June 18

2:00pm

WELCOME! Staff Members who started in May

Patricia Alvarez	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Keona Brown	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Barbara Ceiga	Exhibits	Developer	633
Luke Erickson	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Tasha Evans	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Dimetrius Ferrell	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Sharon Fetterman	Education	MS-Education II	0
Veronica Garza	Museum Store	Sales Clerk	866
Evelyn Graham	Museum Store	Sales Clerk	866
Fay Hartog-Levin	President's Office	Vice President, External Affairs	342
Kenyetta Hunter	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Anibal Irizarry	Museum Store	Sales Clerk	866
Charles Katzenmeyer	V.P. Inst Adv/Dev	Inst. Advc Campaign Mgr.	885
Richard A Lupia II	Geology	MS-Science IV	480
Christy MacLear	President's Office	Museum Campus Manager	399
Heather MacLennan	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Cheryl Parker	Education	Ed. Program Interpreter	0
Jason Rossi	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Salitria Smith	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Stefanie Stephens	Library	Library Technical Asst.	281
Quentin Washington	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Erica Zahnle	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235

GOODBYE and GOOD LUCK... Staff Members who left in May

Amy Baker	Public Relations	Media Relations Manager
Eric Gyllenhaal	Exhibits	Senior Developer
Sarah Highstone	Indv. & Founders Council	Friends Group Coordinator
Robert Masek	Geology	MS-Science III
Paul Rehder	FP&O Eng. Serv.	Stationary Engineer
Clay Turner	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep

Thank you!

Thanks to all who contributed to the successful opening of **Dinosaur Families**. As always, there are far more people to thank than can be named here. However, a few have dedicated a major portion of their recent lives in order to make the exhibit happen, often going above and beyond the call of duty to create a superb installation. They deserve an extra-special thank you:

Exhibit Developer: **Gene Dillenburg**
Exhibit Designers: **Doug DeWitt** and **Brian Stacy**
Graphics Designers: **David Quedneau** and **Dirk Urban**
Silk Screening: **John Petreikis**
Technical Installation: **Rayfield Drake, Ron Hall, Trigg Waller**
Exhibit Preparators: **Peter DeReimer, Nel Fetherling, Eric Lindveit, Matt Majer, Michael Paha, Kent Peaslee, Nina Sweeney**
Lighting: **Matthew Timms**
Engineering: **Tim Tryba**
Installation Management and Support: **Jean Cattell, Geoff Grove, Dave Layman**

To those listed here, and all of you in Education, Public Services, Public Relations, Geology, FP&O and other areas who have worked and continue to work so hard on this exhibit: thank you!

Carrie Hageman

THANK YOU FOR *TWO* FABULOUS MEMBERS' NIGHTS

The Membership Department sends a warm, belated thank you to all departments for your creativity and hard work that made Members' Nights 1997 so successful. The Museum received many compliments from members who thought there were more interesting things to see and explore than ever before. Members were also very appreciative of having two nights to chose from and were delighted that the lighter crowds enabled them to actually talk to curators.

Thank you for your help and good spirits -- making this **the** Museum event of the year.

The Staff of the Membership Department

DISNEY AND THE FIELD MAKE MAGIC

We want to thank everyone for their support during the Disney Weekend just past. The Field Museum staff made their own magic this time! If you have any feedback from visitors or any comments, please let us know. You may pick up DISNEY FUN KITS -- available as supplies last -- in the Personnel Office on Monday after 10:00 a.m.

The Special Events Staff

"DINO DIG" GOING STRONG

In its second week, the outside "Dino Dig" continues to be a phenomenal success. Families are truly enjoying the experience and this past weekend we even had repeat visitors from the previous week! After the initial flood of visitors (an average of 1,200 each day of the three-day weekend) its opening weekend, it has now settled down into manageable numbers.

As with all big projects here at the Museum, it took the talents and experiences and the just plain "jump in and help" attitude of many people. To list them all would be an almost impossible task to do, although that was also said about the "Dino Dig."

But, I would like to highlight the extra effort of the following Departments in helping to complete this task.

> Education, Engineering, exhibits, Facility Planning, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Security, Visitor Services, and all the volunteers that lent their time and efforts.

If you have yet to come out and visit the "Dino Dig," you are encouraged to do so. Head out the north door and turn right. The tent is hard to miss.

ANTHROPOLOGY LOSES TWO VALUABLE TREASURES!

Chip Stanish, our Department Chair, and **Naveeda Khan** are leaving us to pursue new opportunities. LET'S GIVE THEM A BIG SEND OFF!

Thursday, June 12 -- 4:00 p.m. -- Anthropology Main Office